

Message Text

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P R 221046Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3599

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T AMMAN 0483

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, SA, SY, EG

SUBJECT: FAISAL VISIT

1. PRIME MINISTER RIFAI TOLD AMBASSADOR JANUARY 20 THAT FAISAL VISIT TO JORDAN HAD BEEN SUCCESS. HE NOTED THAT SYRIANS HAD WORKED HARD TO TRY TO CONVINCE FAISAL THAT EGYPT WAS INTENT ON GOINGIT ALONE WITH ISRAEL. RIFAI CLAIMS HE TRIED TO COUNTERACT THIS AND BELIEVES HE PUT SITATUION IN A LITTLE BETTER PERSPECTIVE FOR SAUDIS PRIOR TO FAISAL'S DEPARTURE FOR ASWAN.

2. RIFAI INDICATES THAT JORDAN RECEIVED A GRAND TOTAL OF ABOUT JD 55 MILLION/(ABOUT \$160 MILLION) PRESUMABLY IN RABAT SUBSIDY MONEY FROM SAUDIS. AND CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN \$51 MILLION RECENTLY ANNOUNCED AS PART OF RABAT SUBSIDY. COMMENT: THIS IS PROBABLY IN ADDITION TO THE \$51 MILLIONIN BILATERAL AID FROM THE RABAT SUBSIDY, BUT MAY INCLUDE AID FOR BUDGET AND OFFICERS HOUSING REPORTED IN AMMAN 399. END COMMENT. FUNDS WOULD BE USED AS FOLLOWS: JD 10 MILLION (\$31 MILLION) FOR ARMY CAMPS; JD 10 MILLION (\$31 MILLION) TO PAY OFF ABOUT \$28 MILLION IN CLAIMS FROM 1970 FIGHTING AGAINST FEDAYEEN, (HE SAYS GOOD RECORDS OF THESE LOSSES EXIST); AND JD 17 MILLION (\$52 MILLION) FOR THE UNCOMPLETED PORTIONS

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OF THE PRESENT ARMY AND AIR FORCE BUDGETS (WE PRE-

SUME THIS MEANS AREAS BUDGETED, BUT NOT PRESENTLY FUNDED). REMAINING FUNDS JD 18 MILLION (ABOUT \$55 MILLION) WILL GO FOR NEW WEAPONS PURCHASES. SINCE DETAILS DO NOT JIBE WITH PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS, WE WILL TRY TO CLEAR THIS UP IN FUTURE REPORTING.

3. KING TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WAS PLEASED WITH FAISAL VISIT. AT TIMES HE FOUND FAISAL COMPLETELY LUCID AND SHARP, IN OTHER PERIODS SAUDI MONARCH APPEARED TO BE DAY DREAMING. JORDANIANS (OR AT LEAST KING) HAD AVOIDED PUSHING FOR FUNDS (RIFAI MAY HAVE DONE SOME OF THIS WITH KAMAL ADHAM AND FAHD), AND WERE MOST PLEASED WITH SAUDI GENEROSITY. KING SAYS THAT ADHAM AND OTHERS IN PARTY CLEARLY CONVINCED THAT FAHD IS MOST SIGNIFICANT SUCCESSOR AND WAS CLEARLY FAVORABLE TO JORDANIAN INTERESTS. FOR FIRST TIME FAHD CLAIMED THEY REALLY HAD MORE MONEY THAN THEY KNEW WHAT TO DO WITH. FAHD ASKED KING AND RIFAI TO REFER ALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS TO HIM AND HE WOULD LOOK AFTER THEM PERSONALLY. KING SAYS FAHD GAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS FREE TO ACT ALONE IN THIS AREA.

4. RIFAI ADDED THAT SAUDIS WERE VERY TOUGH, AND HE HAD WORKED HARD WITH THEM TO SECURE FUNDS. CROWN PRINCE HASSAN COMMENTED THAT SAUDIS HAD LEARNED A LOT AND WERE NOW DEMANDING STUDIES FOR FINDING PROJECTS AND INSISTING ON PAYING DIRECTLY, RATHER THAN THROUGH GOJ, FOR CONTRACTING AND OTHER WORK DONE.

5. RIFAI SAYS HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT A HEAD OF STATE MEETING BETWEEN EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA WITH THE PLO WHICH FIGURES IN NEWS SOURCED TO FAISAL EN ROUTE TO EGYPT. IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED HERE AND THE FIRST HE HAS HEARD OF IT WAS ON THE BBC NEWS MORNING OF JANUARY 20.
PICKERING

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